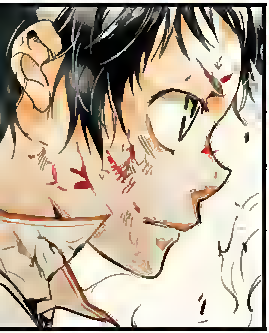
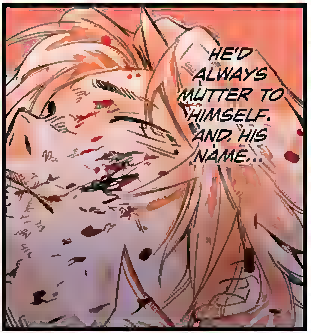
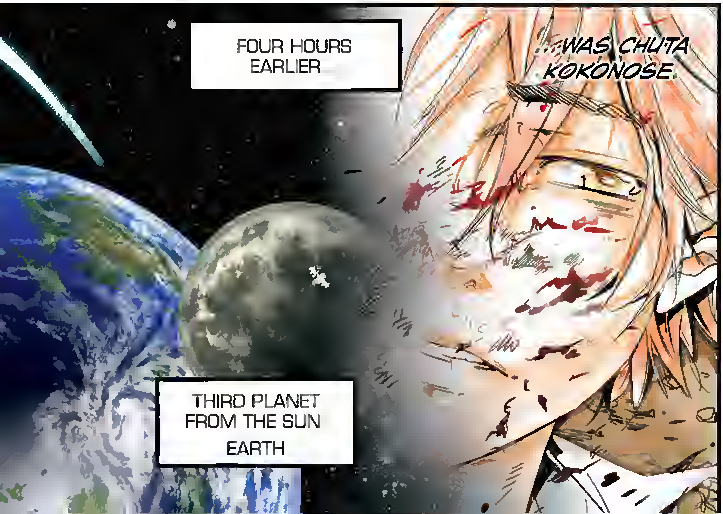
CHAPTER 20: HIS NAME IS CHUTA

ONE OF MY FIRST-YEAR CLASSMATES...



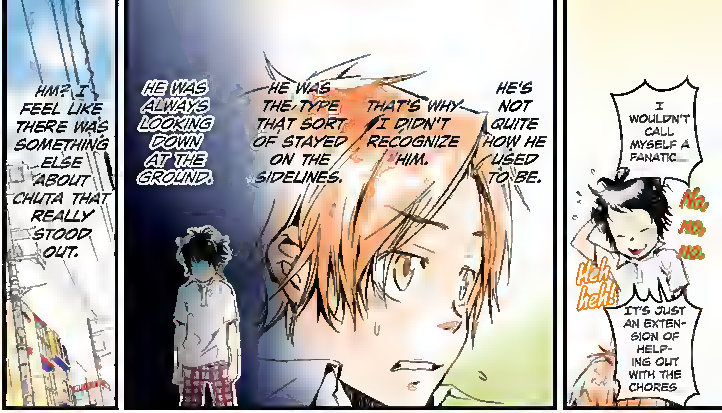

HE'D ALWAYS MUTTER TO HIMSELF. AND HIS NAME...

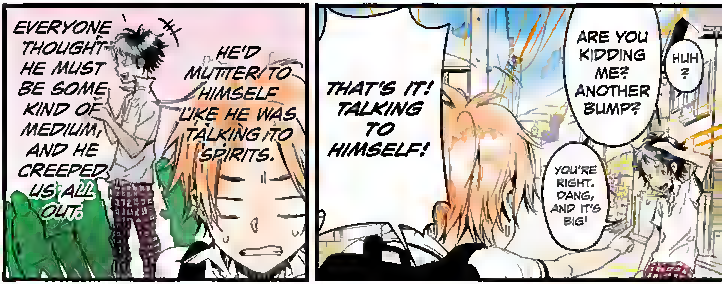
...WAS A REAL CREEP.

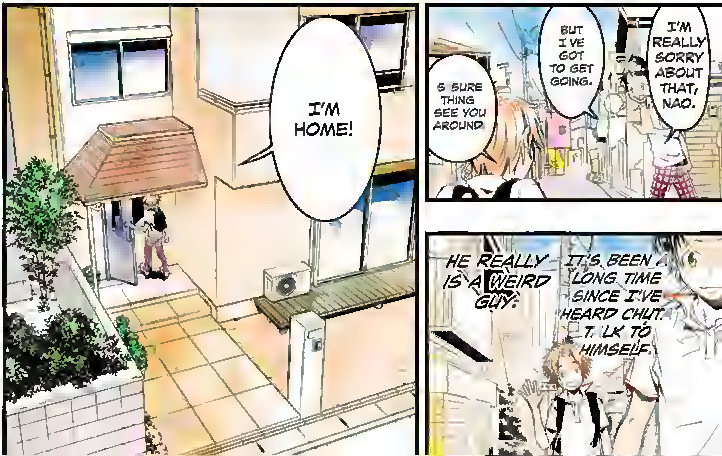

FOUR HOURS EARLIER
...WAS CHUTA KOKONOSE.
THIRD PLANET FROM THE SUN
EARTH

JAPAN
OH CRAP...
I'VE GOT TO WORK HARDER ON MY STUDIES.
WITH GRADES LIKE THIS, I'LL NEVER GET A PLAY SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP.
PLOP
ロッキー
YOW!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!
FLASH
?

UH... I WAS, UH... CLIMBING A TREE...
S-SORRY ABOUT THAT. ARE YOU HURT?
THERE ARE NO TREES TO CLIMB AROUND HERE.
HUH?
AH!
OWWWW!
TELEPORT ME RIGHT SIDE UP ALREADY, OFFICER SHERO-NIMO!
OOOOW!
UUUH... AND...
HM?
YOU'RE NADA FROM THE SOCCER CLUB, RIGHT? NAO NADA!
SORRY, BUT YOU ARE?
THE HOME-EC FA-NATIC WHO BEAT THE TEACHER IN A NEEDLE-WORK COM-PETITION!
ACK! CHUTA KOKO-NOSE?!
KOKONOSE?
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER AS FIRST-YEARS. I'M KOKO-NOSE!

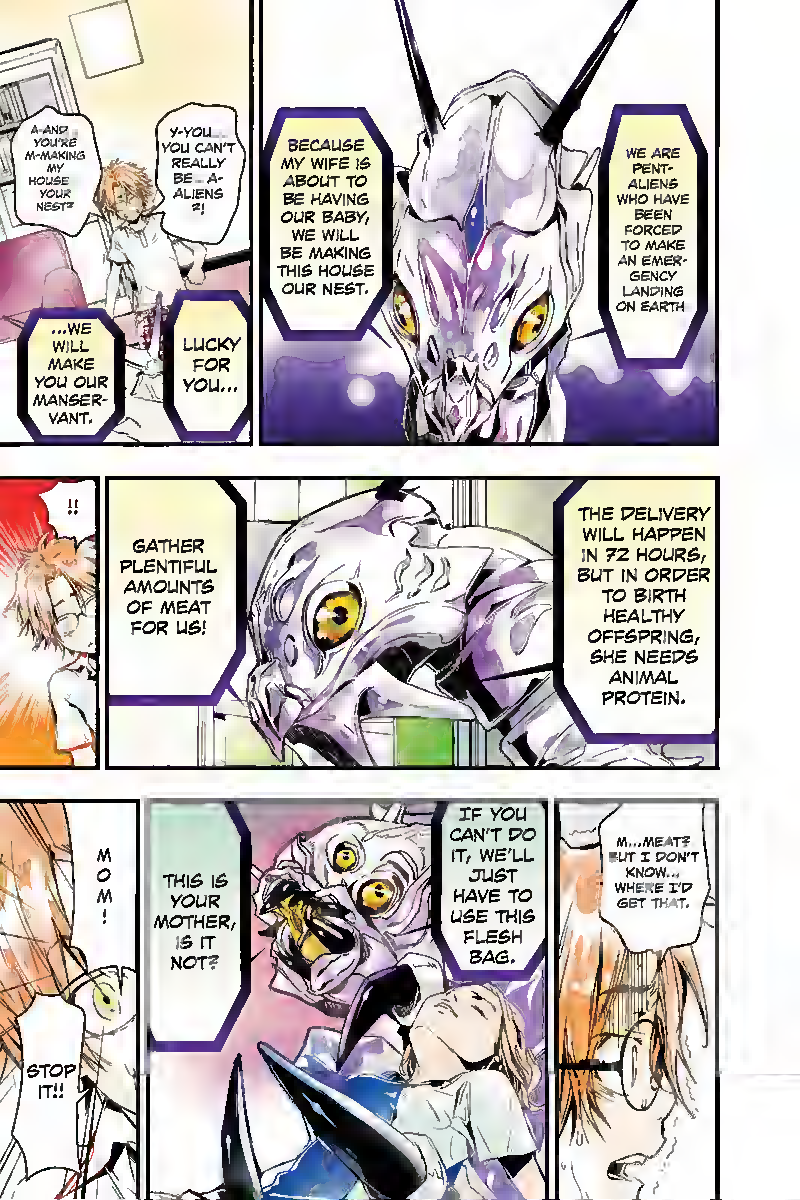

HM? I FEEL LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT CHUTA THAT REALLY STOOD OUT.
HE WAS ALWAYS LOOKING DOWN AT THE GROUND.
HE WAS THE TYPE THAT SORT OF STAYED ON THE SIDELINES.
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM.
HE'S NOT QUITE HOW HE USED TO BE.
I WOULDN'T CALL MYSELF A FANATIC...
No, no, no.
Hehheh
IT'S JUST AN EXTENSION OF HELPING OUT WITH THE CHORES

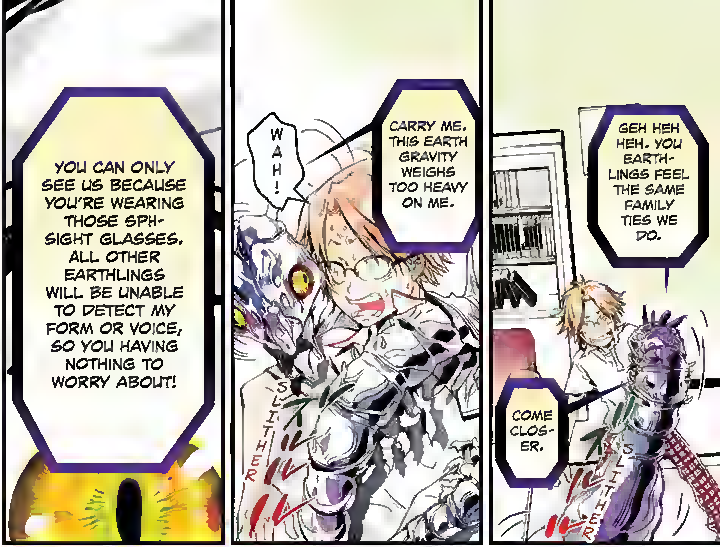

EVERYONE THOUGHT HE MUST BE SOME KIND OF MEDIUM, AND HE CREEPED US ALL OUT.
HE'D MUTTER TO HIMSELF LIKE HE WAS TALKING TO SPIRITS.
THAT'S IT! TALKING TO HIMSELF!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? ANOTHER BUMP?
HUH?
YOU'RE RIGHT. DANG, AND IT'S BIG!

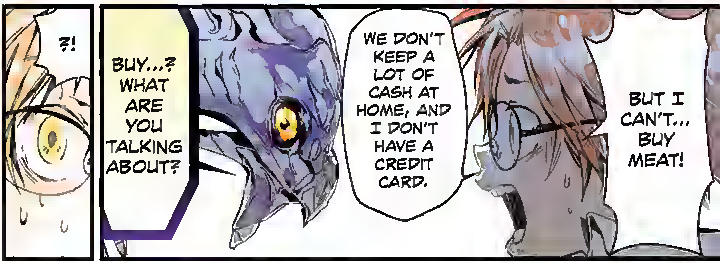

I'M HOME!
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT, NAO.
BUT I'VE GOT TO GET GOING.
S SURE THING SEE YOU AROUND
HE REALLY IS A WEIRD GUY.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HEARD CHUT. T. LK TO HIMSELF.

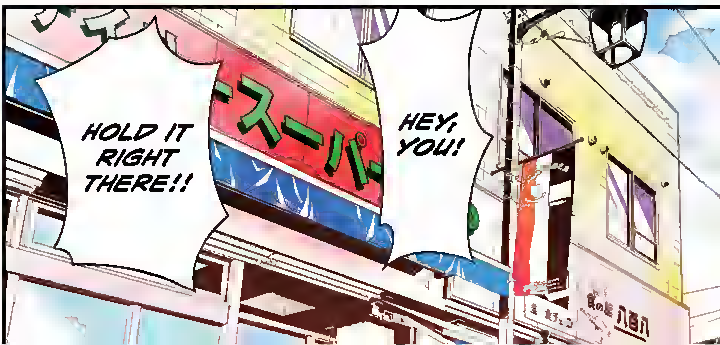
MOM?!
!!
MOM, DID YOU SPILL SOME-THING?
WHAT IS THIS?
YUCK!
I'M HOME
?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
Y... YOU'RE FLOAT-ING!
ZIP
FLAP
Put on the glasses on the coffee table.
...?
!!!

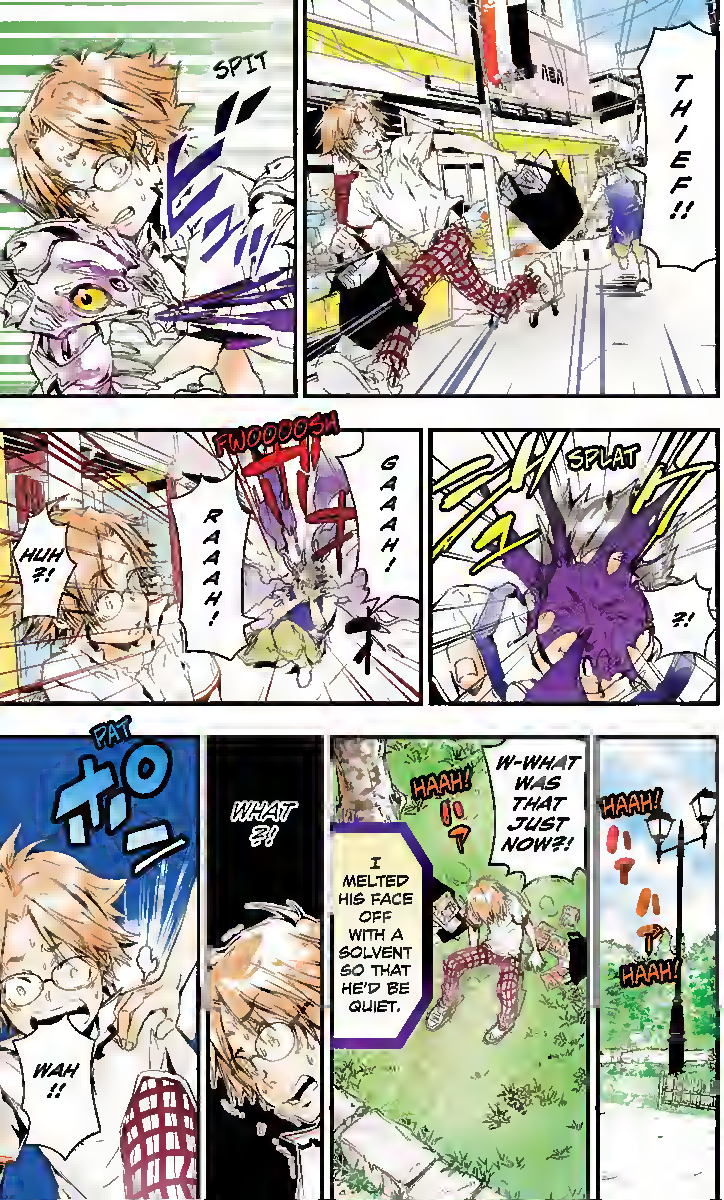
BADUUUUM
WAAAAH!
NOW DO YOU SEE?
QUIET, EARTH-LING!


A-AND YOU'RE M-MAKING MY HOUSE YOUR NEST?
Y-YOU... YOU CAN'T REALLY BE... A-ALIENS?!
...WE WILL MAKE YOU OUR MANSERVANT.
LUCKY FOR YOU...
BECAUSE MY WIFE IS ABOUT TO BE HAVING OUR BABY, WE WILL BE MAKING THIS HOUSE OUR NEST.
WE ARE PENT-ALIENS WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON EARTH
!!
GATHER PLENTIFUL AMOUNTS OF MEAT FOR US!
THE DELIVERY WILL HAPPEN IN 72 HOURS, BUT IN ORDER TO BIRTH HEALTHY OFFSPRING, SHE NEEDS ANIMAL PROTEIN.
MOM!
STOP IT!!
THIS IS YOUR MOTHER, IS IT NOT?
IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO USE THIS FLESH BAG.
M...MEAT? BUT I DON'T KNOW... WHERE I'D GET THAT.


GEH HEH HEH. YOU EARTHLINGS FEEL THE SAME FAMILY TIES WE DO.
COME CLOSER.
SLITHER
CARRY ME. THIS EARTH GRAVITY WEIGHS TOO HEAVY ON ME.
WAH!
SLITHER
YOU CAN ONLY SEE US BECAUSE YOU'RE WEARING THOSE SPH-SIGHT GLASSES. ALL OTHER EARTHLINGS WILL BE UNABLE TO DETECT MY FORM OR VOICE, SO YOU HAVING NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

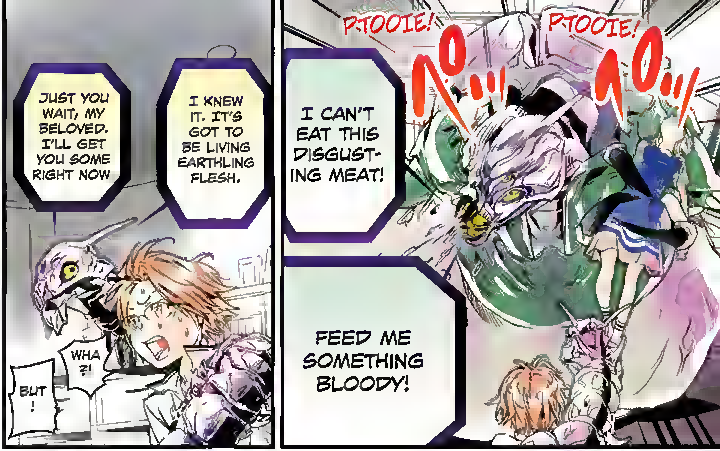

BUT I CAN'T... BUY MEAT!
WE DON'T KEEP A LOT OF CASH AT HOME, AND I DON'T HAVE A CREDIT CARD.
BUY...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
?!

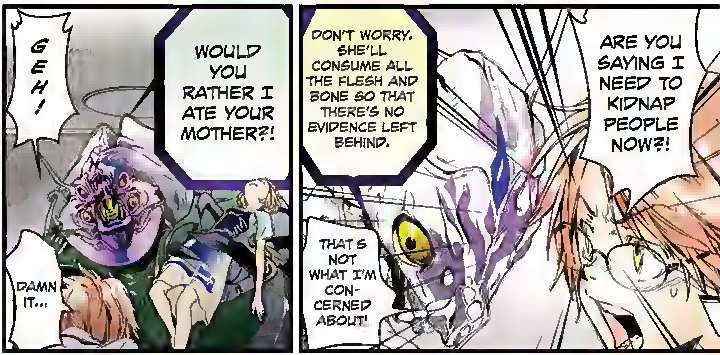

HEY, YOU!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!

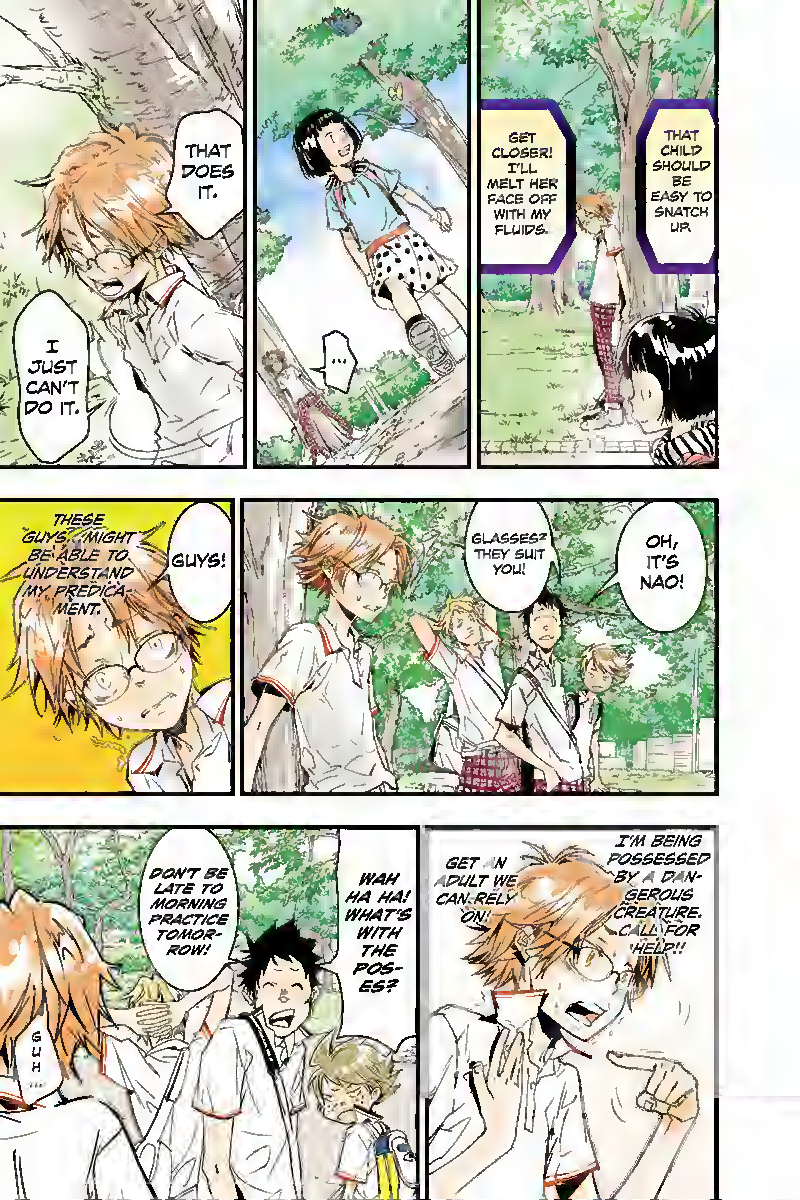

SPIT
THIEF!!
FWOOOOSH
GAAAH!
RAAAH!
HUH?!
SPLAT
?!
PAT
WAH!!
WHAT?!
I MELTED HIS FACE OFF WITH A SOLVENT SO THAT HE'D BE QUIET.
HAAH!
W-WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?!
HAAH!
HAAH!

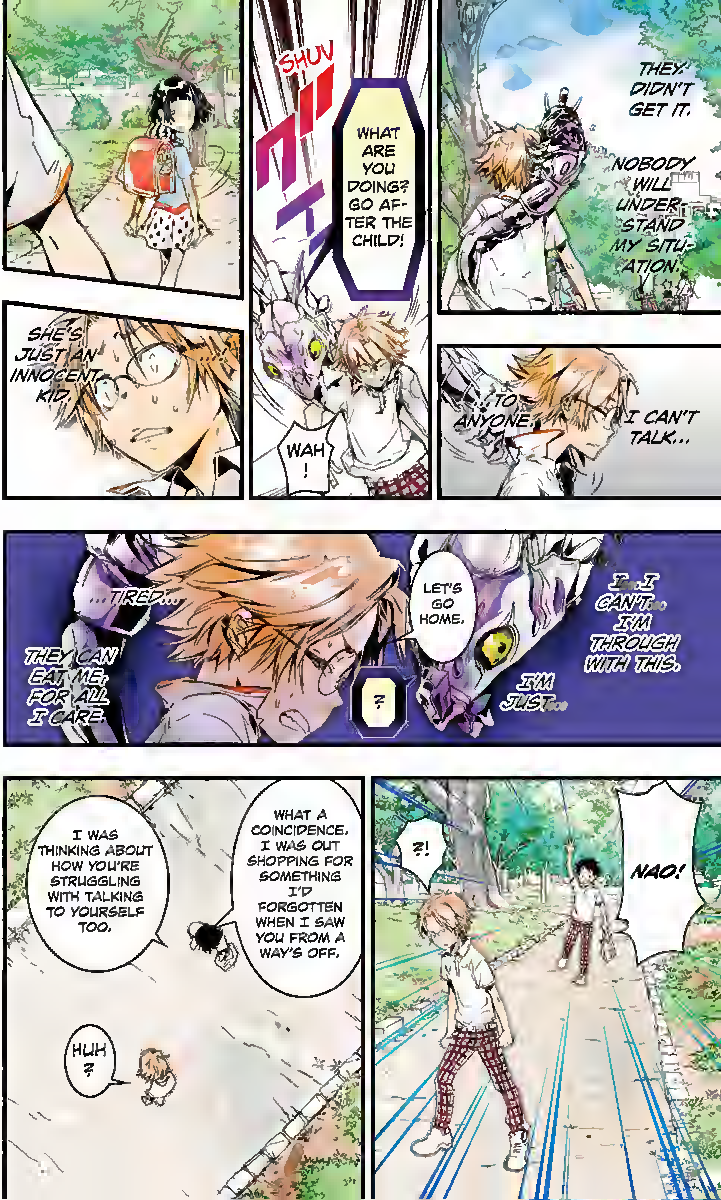
WE MEET AGAIN.
YOU DOING SOME GRO-CERY SHOP-PING?
OH, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WORE GLASSES.
CHUTA?!
I GUESS AN ATHLETE LIKE YOU WOULD EAT A LOT OF MEAT.
THAT WOULD BE A WHOLE MONTH'S WORTH FOR US!
WHO IS THIS?!
MUTTER MUTTER
A...A FRIEND.
WE USED TO BE CLASS-MATES LAST YEAR.
HE SMELLS DELI-CIOUS.
WHAT?! SMELLS ...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
...
OH!
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING, CHUTA?

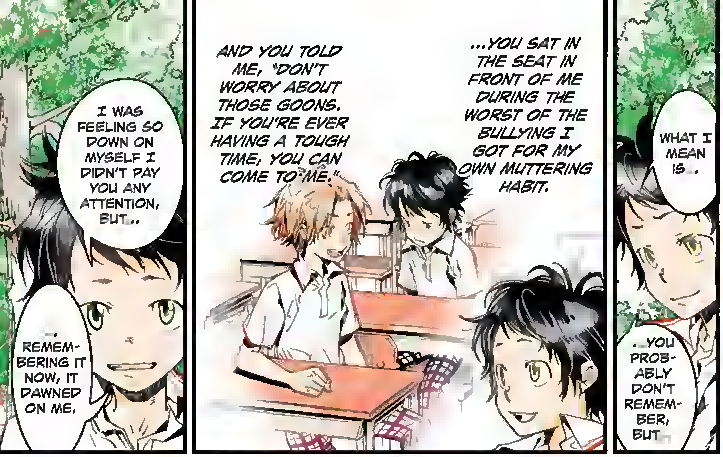
...I'VE GOT A HABIT OF TALKING TO MYSELF.
I'M NOT AS BAD AS YOU, BUT...
I GUESS WE'RE BOTH A LITTLE WEIRD!
NAO-KUN, WERE YOU JUST... TALKING TO YOURSELF?
HUH?
UH...
THAT'S RIGHT!
REALLY?!
HUH?!
PTOOIE!
DID I EVER OVER-HEAR IT?
MUR
MUR
WAS NAO LIKE THAT WHEN WE WERE FIRST-YEARS?
TCH! I MEAN I WAS ALREADY DISTRACTED ENOUGH WITH MY OWN ISSUES BACK THEN!
BYE!
WELL, I GOTTA GO!
I NEVER REAL-IZED... THAT NAO TALKED TO HIM-SELF.
TMP
TMP
SO YOU TOO... HUH?!
MUR


BUT!
WHA?!
I KNEW IT. IT'S GOT TO BE LIVING EARTHLING FLESH.
JUST YOU WAIT, MY BELOVED. I'LL GET YOU SOME RIGHT NOW.
I CAN'T EAT THIS DISGUSTING MEAT!
PTOOIE!
PTOOIE!
NO...!!
NO...!!
FEED ME SOMETHING BLOODY!


DAMN IT...
GEH!
WOULD YOU RATHER I ATE YOUR MOTHER?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT!
DON'T WORRY. SHE'LL CONSUME ALL THE FLESH AND BONE SO THAT THERE'S NO EVIDENCE LEFT BEHIND.
ARE YOU SAYING I NEED TO KIDNAP PEOPLE NOW?!

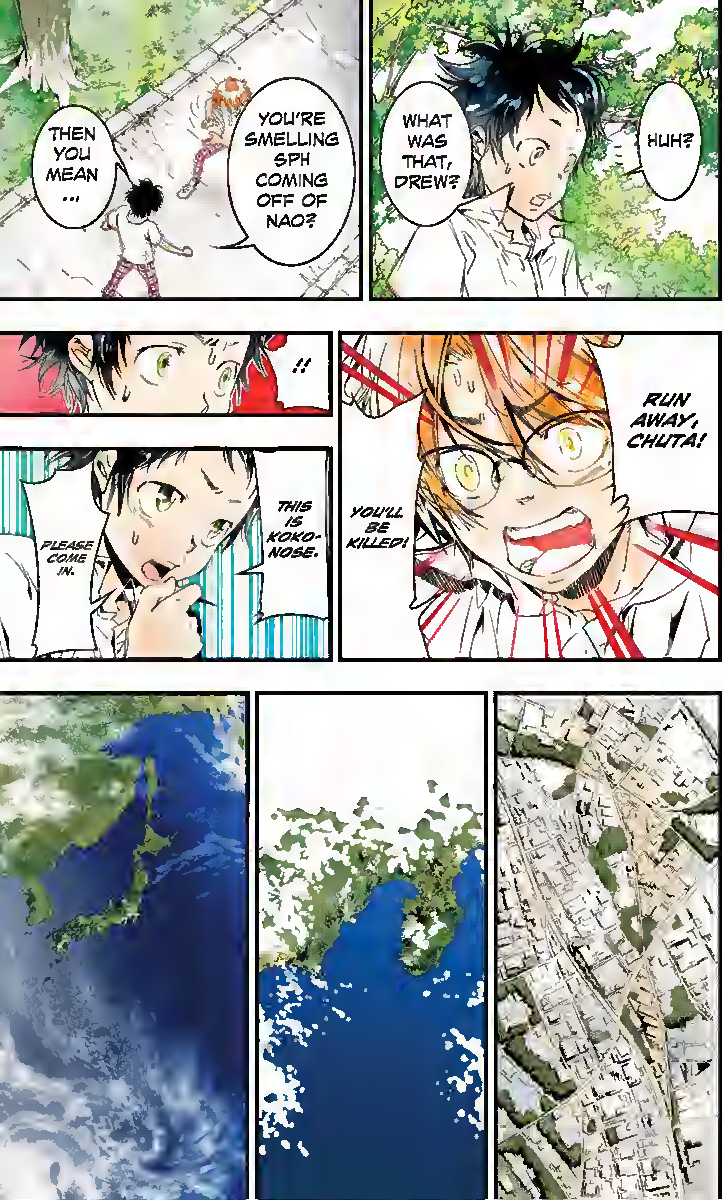

THAT DOES IT.
I JUST CAN'T DO IT.
...
GET CLOSER! I'LL MELT HER FACE OFF WITH MY FLUIDS.
THAT CHILD SHOULD BE EASY TO SNATCH UP.
GUYS!
THESE "GUYS" MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND MY PREDICAMENT.
OH, IT'S NAO!
GLASSES? THEY SUIT YOU!
I'M BEING POSSESSED BY A DANGEROUS CREATURE. CALL FOR HELP!!
GET AN ADULT WE CAN-RELY ON!
WAH HA HA! WHAT'S WITH THE POSES?
DON'T BE LATE TO MORNING PRACTICE TOMORROW!
GUH...

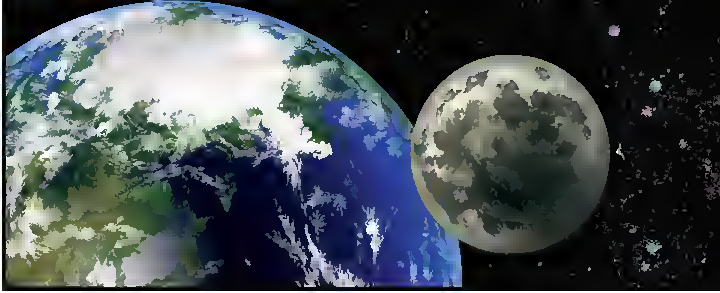

SHE'S JUST AN INNOCENT KID.
SHUV
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GO AFTER THE CHILD!
WAH!
THEY DIDN'T GET IT.
NOBODY WILL UNDERSTAND MY SITUATION.
I CAN'T TALK... TO ANYONE.
...TIRED...
THEY CAN EAT ME, FOR ALL I CARE.
?
LET'S GO HOME.
I... I CAN'T... I'M THROUGH WITH THIS.
I'M JUST...
?!
NAO!
I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH TALKING TO YOURSELF TOO.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. I WAS OUT SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING I'D FORGOTTEN WHEN I SAW YOU FROM A WAY'S OFF.
HUH ?

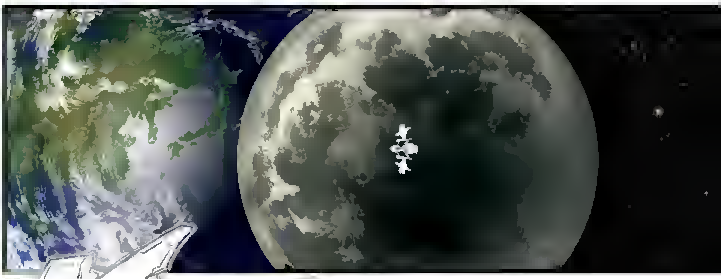

WHAT I MEAN IS...
...YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER, BUT...
...YOU SAT IN THE SEAT IN FRONT OF ME DURING THE WORST OF THE BULLYING I GOT FOR MY OWN MUTTERING HABIT.
AND YOU TOLD ME, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE GOONS. IF YOU'RE EVER HAVING A TOUGH TIME, YOU CAN COME TO ME."
I WAS FEELING SO DOWN ON MYSELF I DIDN'T PAY YOU ANY ATTENTION, BUT...
...REMEMBERING IT NOW, IT DAWNED ON ME.

I'M NOT SAYING IT'S MY TURN NOW, BUT...
...IF YOU WANT... YOU CAN ALWAYS TALK TO ME.

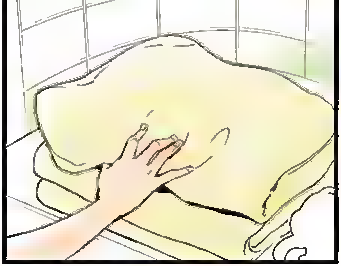
I CAN'T BELIEVE CHUTA, WHO I'D ALWAYS CONSIDERED QUIET AND THE CLASS WEIRDO...
WOULD BE THE ONE TO LEND A SYMPATHETIC EAR AND WORRY ABOUT ME.
...
THEN AGAIN, THE REASON YOU TALK TO YOURSELF IS PROBABLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE.
CHUTA ...
BUT THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I CAN TELL HIM ABOUT THIS SITUATION.
NOBODY CAN SEE THIS MONSTER, AND HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME ANYWAY!
GET CLOSE TO HIM! I'M GOING TO MELT HIM.
N-NO!!
?
YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF AGAIN?
LURCH
JUST AS I THOUGHT- HE REALLY DOES HAVE A DELICIOUS SMELL.
WHA ?!
LET'S FEED HIM TO MY WIFE!
STOP IT!
DON'T TOUCH CHUTA !!
?!!

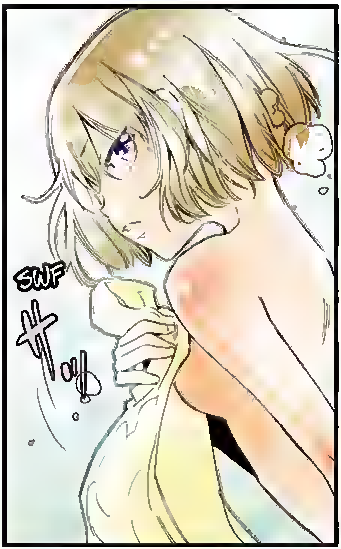

THEN YOU MEAN ...
YOU'RE SMELLING SPH COMING OFF OF NAO?
WHAT WAS THAT, DREW?
HUH?
!!
PLEASE COME IN.
THIS IS KOKO-NOSE.
YOU'LL BE KILLED!
RUN AWAY, CHUTA!

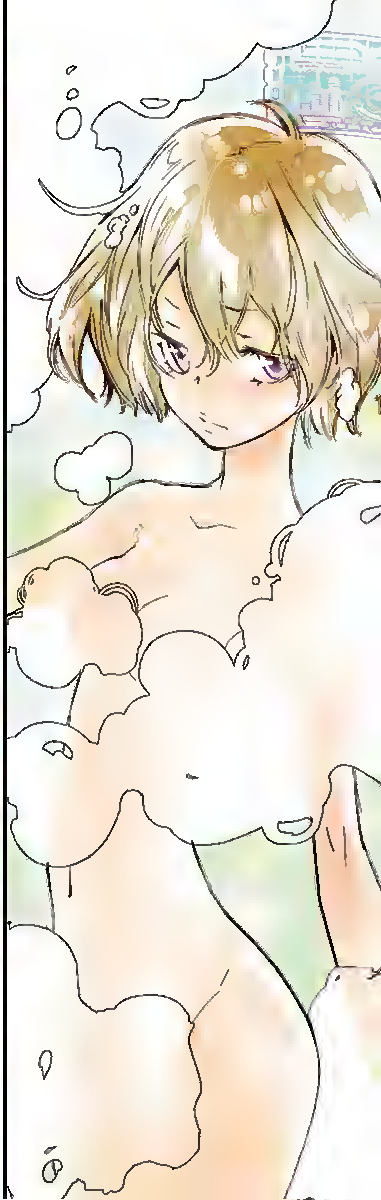




WHAT IS IT? IS THAT CHUTA?
PIPU PO!
YES!
WE'RE COMING-CHU!




SNF

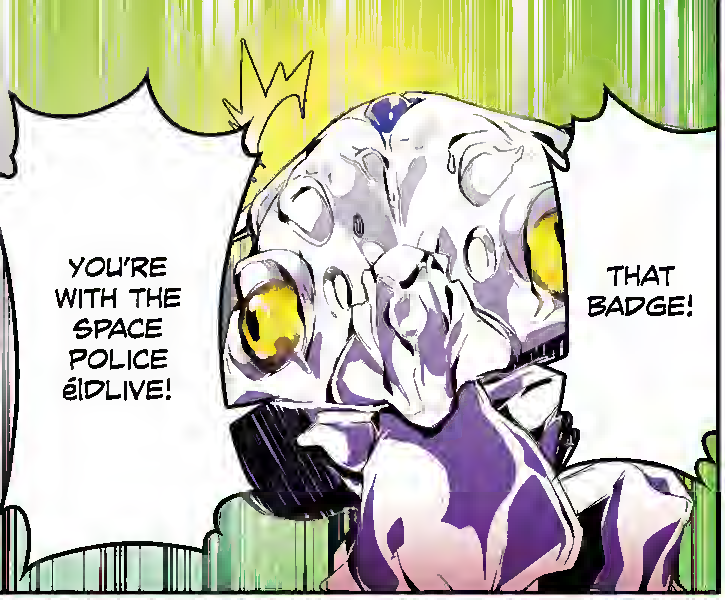


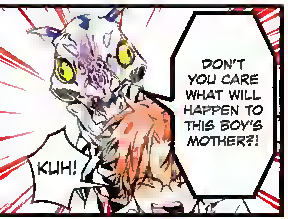
I...
...CAN'T ..TELL YOU.
YOU'LL DIE!
STAY BACK, CHUTA!
NAO ?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LUNGES
WAH !
MOVE!
SPEN
TAKE THAT!
AAH!
ZLOOOOSH
TWISTER
SYMPATHY!

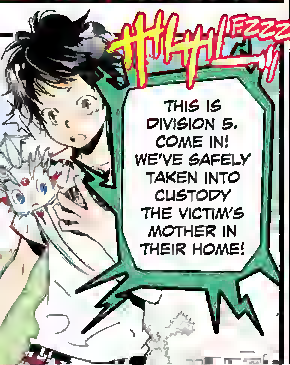
DREW.
ON IT, CHUTA!
CHUT...?
...?
SSHHH
WHAT?!
HUH?!
BADUM
THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING THERE!

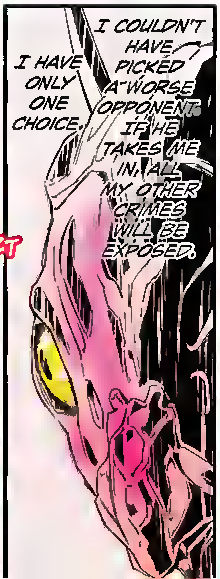
HE'S BEEN LIVING INSIDE MY BODY THIS WHOLE TIME... HIS NAME'S DREW AND HE'S AN EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL.
UH... YEAH... HOW WOULD I DE-SCRIBE IT...?
S...
SOME WEIRD THING'S GROW-ING OUT OF YOUR BELLY!
I ONLY JUST REALIZED IT RECENTLY THOUGH.
NOD
SO YOU WERE GOING THROUGH WHAT I DID, AND THAT'S WHY IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE TALKING TO YOURSELF?!
AH!
EXTRATER-RESTRIAL?! THEN...HE'S JUST LIKE THIS GUY!
I'M GATHERING MEAT WITH THIS BRAT FOR MY WIFE.
BEING THAT WE'RE BOTH E.T.S, BE A PAL AND DON'T INTERFERE IN MY BUSINESS.
YOU'RE FREE TO BE ON YOUR WAY.
BADUM
THEN THAT MAKES THIS EASIER!
I SEE. SO HIS SMELL IS SPACE PHERO-MONES.
WE CAN SEE AND HEAR HIM NOW, CHUTA!
TH-THERE HE IS!

I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT!
GET AWAY FROM NAO!
WHAT?
YOU WON'T LET ME?
DO YOU HAVE ANY RIGHT TO STOP ME?
I DO!
YOU'RE UNDER ...
... ARREST!

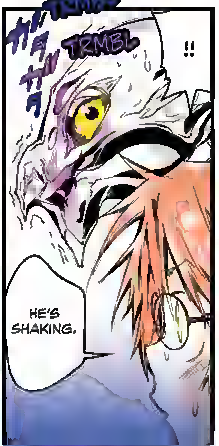

YOU'RE WITH THE SPACE POLICE éIDLIVE!
THAT BADGE!


DON'T YOU CARE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS BOY'S MOTHER?!
KUH!

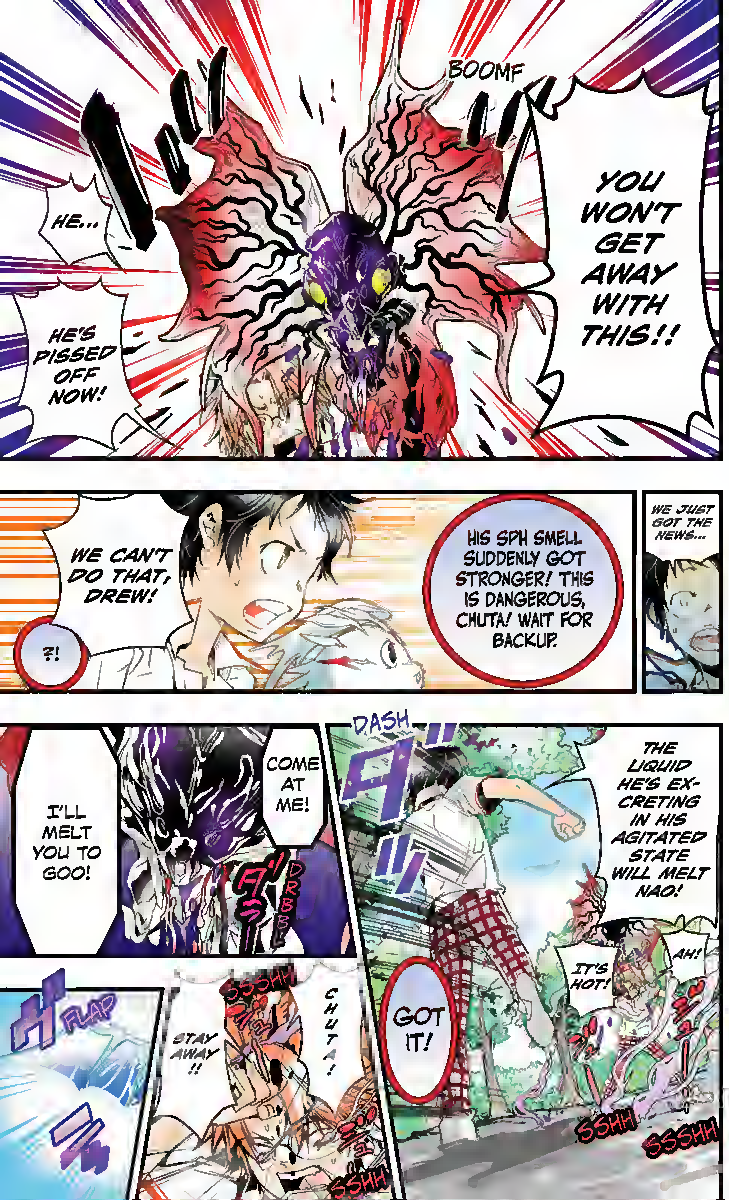

THIS IS DIVISION 5. COME IN! WE'VE SAFELY TAKEN INTO CUSTODY THE VICTIM'S MOTHER IN THEIR HOME!

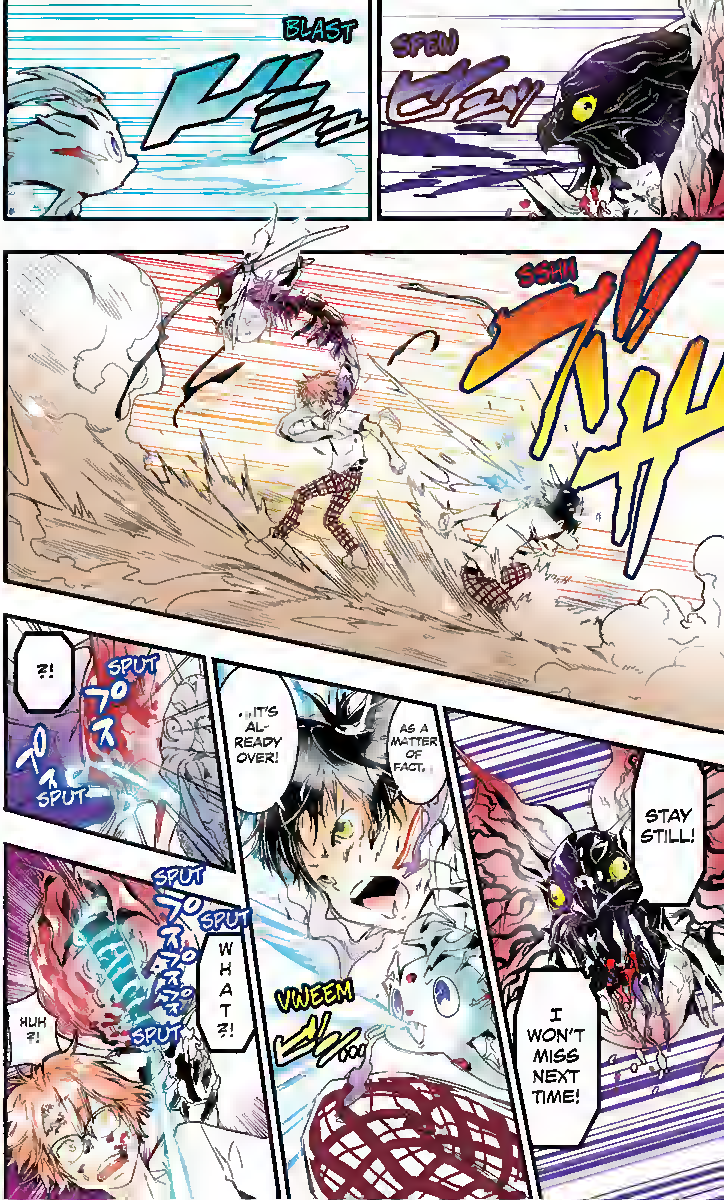

I HAVE ONLY ONE CHOICE.
I COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A WORSE OPPONENT. IF HE TAKES ME IN, ALL MY OTHER CRIMES WILL BE EXPOSED.

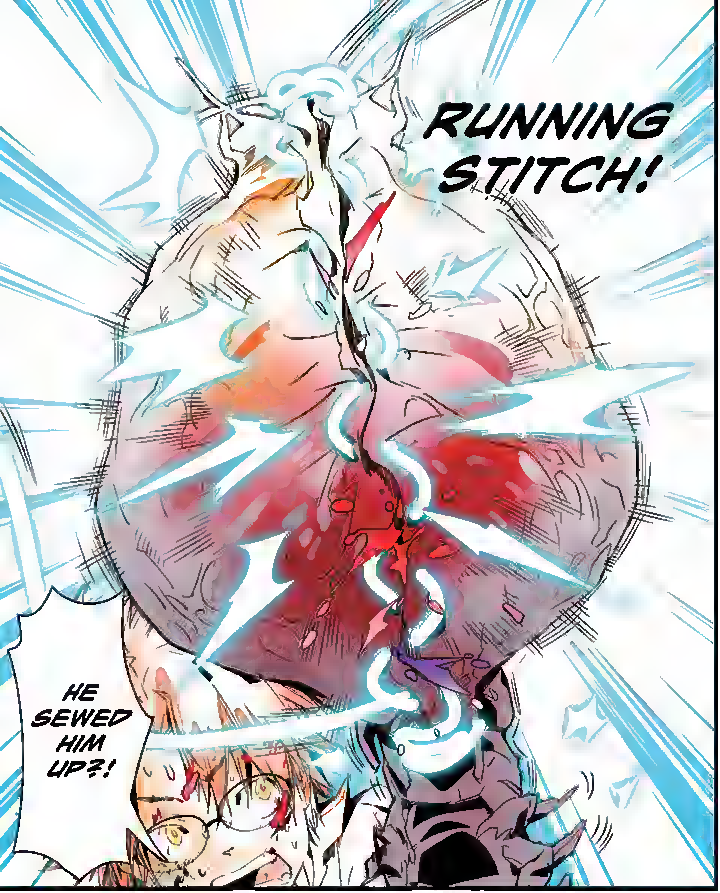
SPACE-POLICE?
?

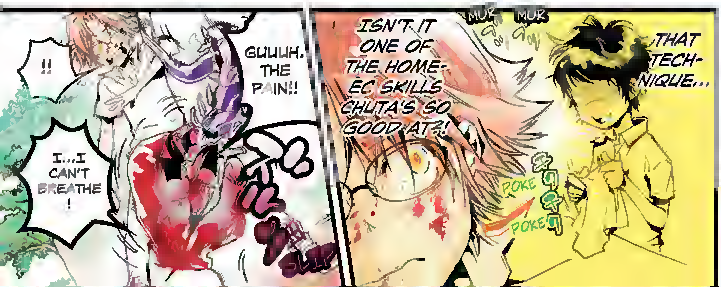

TREMBL
!!
HE'S SHAKING.

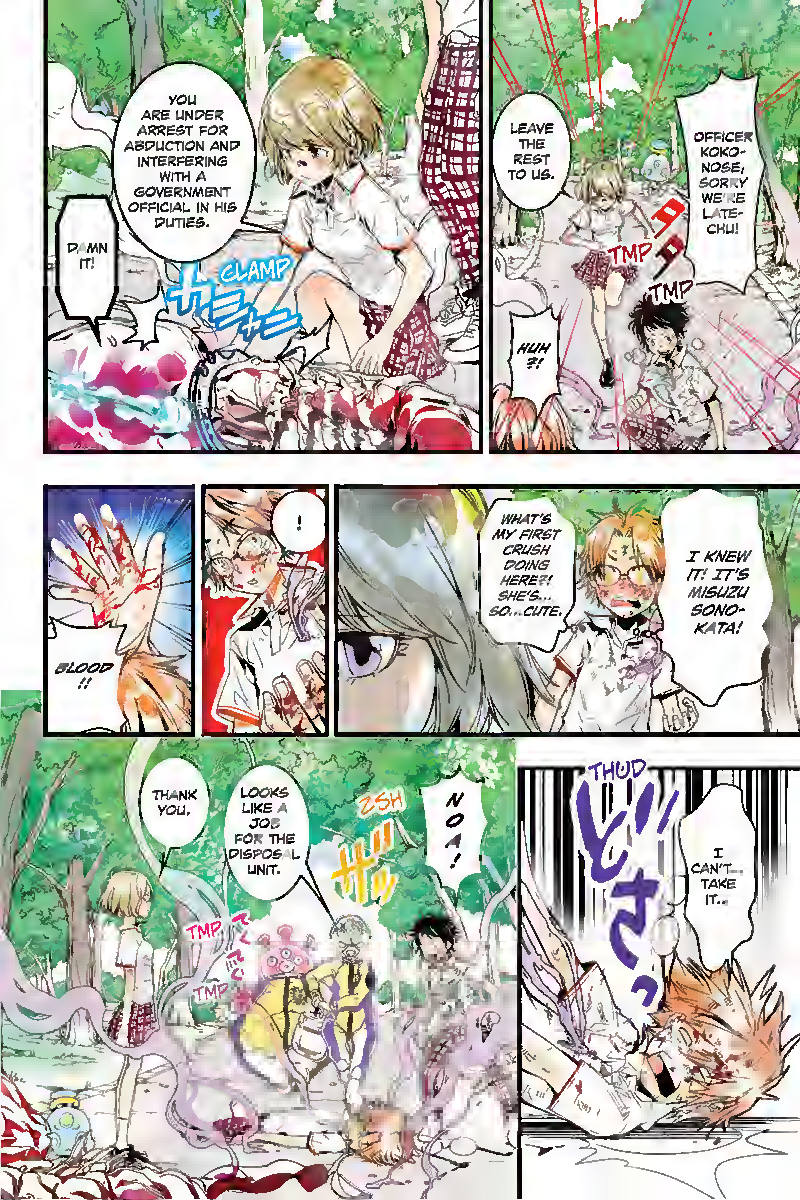
THAT'S INSPECTOR VERONICA'S VOICE!
HEY THERE, CHUTA! ♪
KLATCH
IT WAS A PIECE OF CAKE.
AND WE'VE APPREHENDED THE PENTALIEN'S PARTNER TOO.
グォグ…
GRRR...
THEY'VE GOT MY WIFE?!
WHAT?!
HUH?
ALSO, WHEN THE MALE PENTALIEN IN YOUR COMPANY LOSES HIS TEMPER, HE WILL TURN FEROCIOUS AND VERY DANGEROUS, SO WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T PISS HIM OFF! ♪

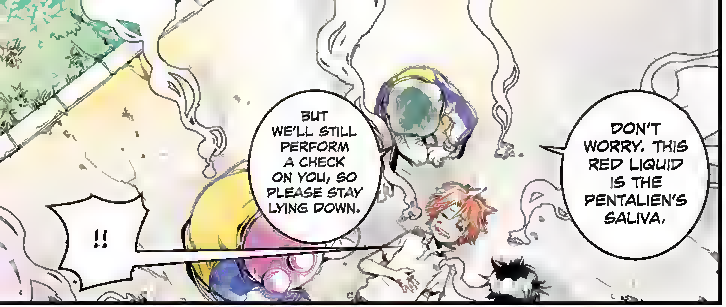

BOOMF
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
HE..
HE'S PISSED OFF NOW!
WE CAN'T DO THAT, DREW!
?!
HIS SPH SMELL SUDDENLY GOT STRONGER! THIS IS DANGEROUS, CHUTA! WAIT FOR BACKUP.
WE JUST GOT THE NEWS...
COME AT ME!
I'LL MELT YOU TO GOO!
DASH
THE LIQUID HE'S EXCRETING IN HIS AGITATED STATE WILL MELT NAO!
AH!
IT'S HOT!
GOT IT!
SSHH
SSSHH
FLAP
STAY AWAY !!
CHUTA!
SSSHH
SSSHH

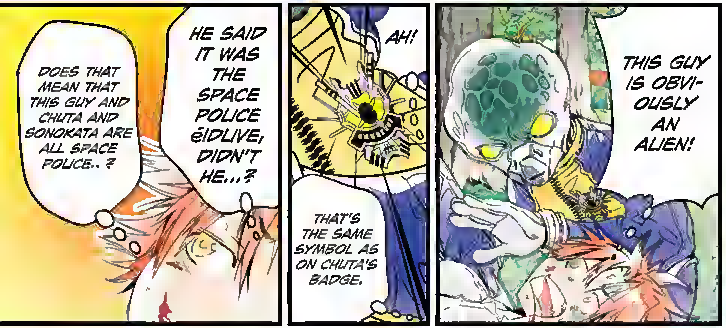

BLAST
SPEW
SSHH
STAY STILL!
I WON'T MISS NEXT TIME!
VNEEM
AS A MATTER OF FACT,
IT'S ALREADY OVER!
WHAT?!
SPUT
SPUT
SPUT
SPUT
SPUT
?!
HUH?!

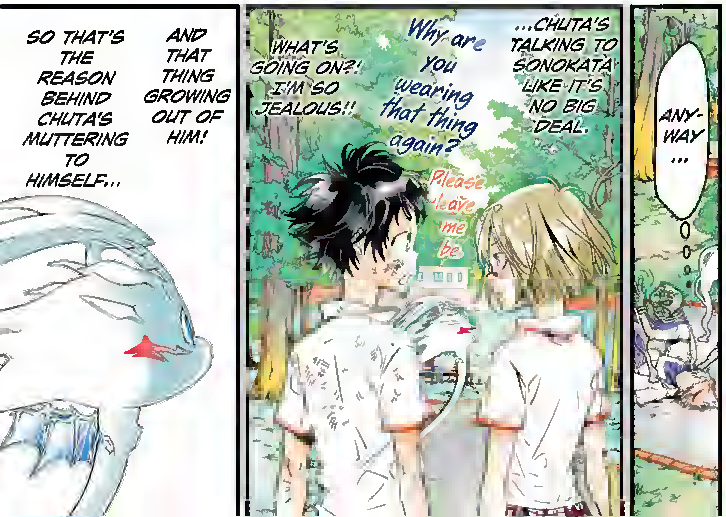

RUNNING STITCH!
HE SEWED HIM UP?!

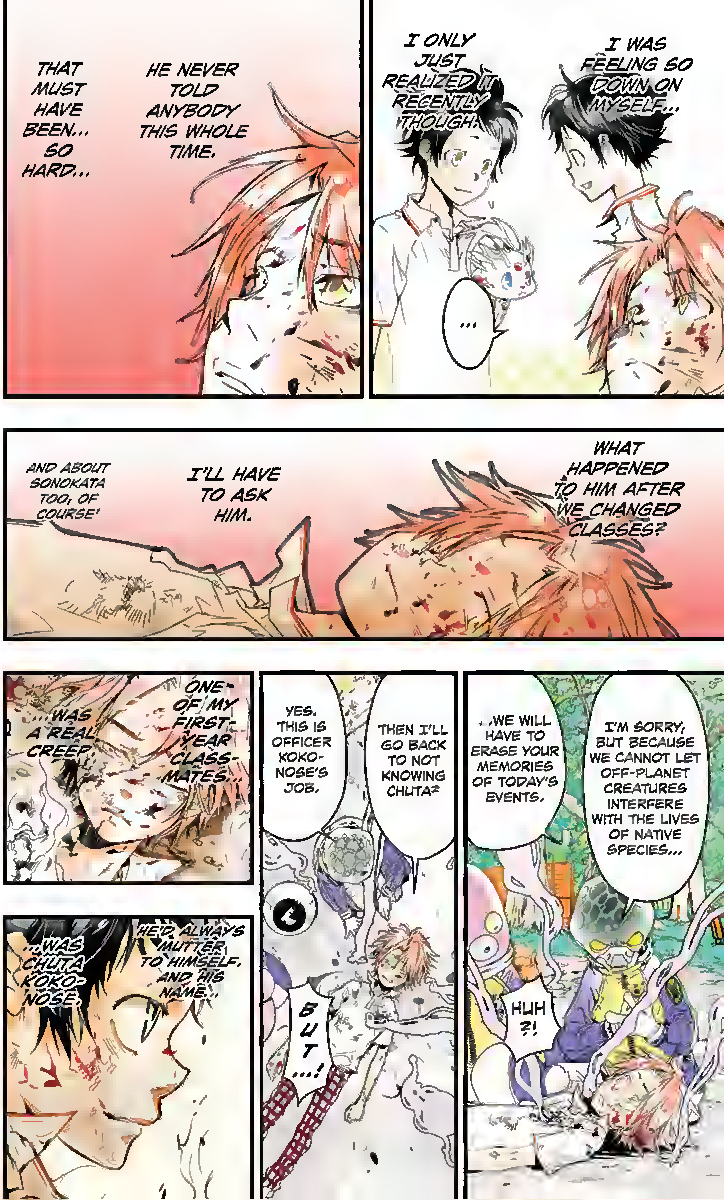

!!
I...I CAN'T BREATHE!
GUUUH. THE PAIN!!
ISN'T IT ONE OF THE HOME-EC SKILLS CHLITA'S SO GOOD AT?!
MUR
MUR
POKE
POKE
...THAT TECH-NIQUE...


YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR ABDUCTION AND INTERFERING WITH A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN HIS DUTIES.
D*MN IT!
CLAMP
OFFICER KOKONOSE, SORRY WE'RE LATE-CHU!
LEAVE THE REST TO US.
TMP
TMP
HUH?
I KNEW IT! IT'S MISUZU SONO-KATA!
WHAT'S MY FIRST CRUSH DOING HERE?! SHE'S... SO...CUTE.
!
BLOOD !!
THUD
I CAN'T... TAKE IT..
NOA!
2SH
LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR THE DISPOSAL UNIT.
THANK YOU.
TMP
TMP

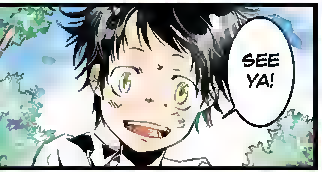

!!
BUT WE'LL STILL PERFORM A CHECK ON YOU, SO PLEASE STAY LYING DOWN.
DON'T WORRY. THIS RED LIQUID IS THE PENTALIEN'S SALIVA.

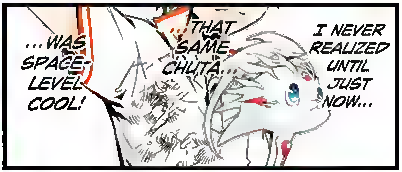

DOES THAT MEAN THAT THIS GUY AND CHUTA AND SONOKATA ARE ALL SPACE POLICE..?
HE SAID IT WAS THE SPACE POLICE GIDLIVE, DIDN'T HE...?
AH!
THAT'S THE SAME SYMBOL AS ON CHUTA'S BADGE.
THIS GUY IS OBVIOUSLY AN ALIEN!


SO THAT'S THE REASON BEHIND CHUTA'S MUTTERING TO HIMSELF...
AND THAT THING GROWING OUT OF HIM!
WHAT'S GOING ON?! I'M SO JEALOUS!!
Why are you wearing that thing again?
Please leave me be
...CHUTA'S TALKING TO SONOKATA LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
ANY-WAY ...


THAT MUST HAVE BEEN... SO HARD...
HE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY THIS WHOLE TIME.
I ONLY JUST REALIZED IT RECENTLY THOUGH.
I WAS FEELING SO DOWN ON MYSELF...
...
AND ABOUT SONOKATA TOO, OF COURSE!
I'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AFTER WE CHANGED CLASSES?
...WAS A REAL CREEP.
ONE OF MY FIRST-YEAR CLASS-MATES...
...WAS CHUTA KOKO-NOSE.
HE'D ALWAYS MUTTER TO HIMSELF, AND HIS NAME...
YES. THIS IS OFFICER KOKO-NOSE'S JOB.
THEN I'LL GO BACK TO NOT KNOWING CHUTA²
BUT...!
...WE WILL HAVE TO ERASE YOUR MEMORIES OF TODAY'S EVENTS.
I'M SORRY, BUT BECAUSE WE CANNOT LET OFF-PLANET CREATURES INTERFERE WITH THE LIVES OF NATIVE SPECIES...
HUH?!

YOSA!
JAB
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION 2! WE'VE PICKED UP STRANGE SPH SIGNALS COMING FROM THE MOUTH OF MT. FUJI. REPORT THERE AT ONCE!


SEE YA!


...WAS SPACE-LEVEL COOL!
...THAT SAME CHUTA...
I NEVER REALIZED UNTIL JUST NOW...

...ÉIDLIVE!

THANKS, CHUTA!
R.. RIGHT.
G-GOOD LUCK...